[Village of Mġarr]

Building went ahead slowly on the

175 346 794 immense construction as costs were defrayed by private subscription in kind and in money, and the villagers were themselves responsible for much of the labouring work. Money and farm produce of every variety was given towards the cost which, in 1939, had passed £10,000 (B/54 - 12.8.1939); this in a parish which even ten years later had no more than 2,218 people (B/167 - 1948).

175 793 871 With the growth of Mġarr, assistant priests were attached to the Parish, notably Father (later Monsignor) Edgar Salamone, who went to the village in 1920 and became Parish Priest a decade later. The work of this one priest not only pays him personal tribute but illustrates the way in which Mġarr acquired the characteristics and features possessed by other villages of much longer standing in the Islands, with the Church itself as the prime consideration and focus of energy and resources. Mgr. Salamone was "sickened by the ignorance and backwardness of the people of Mġarr"[15] and set about establishing some sort of schooling in the village. He acquired premises, used at week-ends by the part-time village barber, and opened a school in 1920 for [658] [671] about 40 children and adults. Three years later a Government elementary school was opened (19.9.1923) and support for this still novel feature of the village grew fast enough for nearly all children to be attending when the Compulsory Attendance Act was passed in 1926.

744 793 759 175 At this time the health of the villagers was cared for by a Dispensary which opened once a week and by Mgr. Salamone himself. A statement in the Malta Legislative Assembly of 1933 observed that the Priest of Mġarr kept "a medicine chest of his own and people used to call on him at all hours of the day and night. He used to pack up his medical kit and go to anyone's bedside, whenever he was called for" (B/291, p.6). As in all things the villagers turned to their Priest in difficulty or trouble whether spiritual, medical or social, as had been the custom for centuries. In 1933, however, the first medical officer for Mġarr began his duties in the village, and another of the traditional functions of the Priest passed to specialist hands.

175 346 344 [435] After this, interest was turned again to building and the spacious esplanade in front of the Church was laid out in 1935, followed by a nearby construction to house the Police Station, Post Office, Government Dispensary and the District Medical Officer. Once again the villagers themselves were responsible for a great deal of the building work, as they were in the case of the Church which continued to grow until its completion and dedication in 1948 - at a 000 total cost of some £16,000[15]. By the mid-thirties Mġarr had

9: Luke G-5 (ca. 1920-ca. 1960) 1960
EZ6 Malta EZ6

[Frontispiece, facing Title Page]

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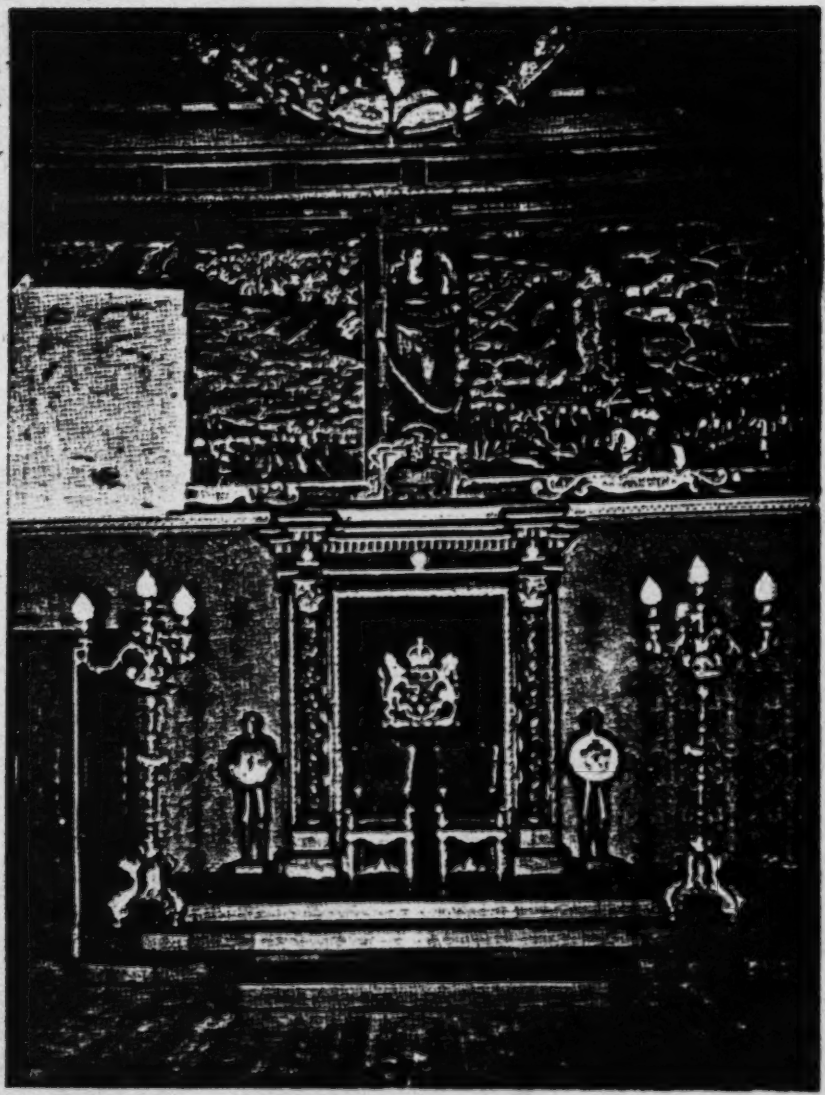

THE PALACE, VALETTA: THRONE IN HALL OF S. MICHAEL AND S. GEORGE

Above, portions of the frescoes depicting the Great Siege. The patch over the fresco to the left of the throne covers temporarily the portion of it damaged by bombing.

Fr.

9: Luke G-5 (ca. 1920-ca. 1960) 1960
EZ6 Malta EZ6

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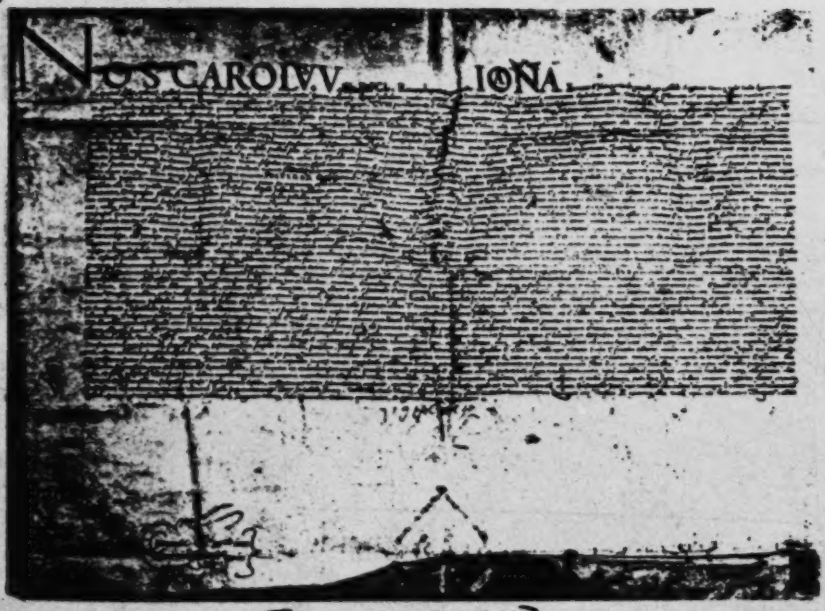
THE PALACE, VALETTA
[See p. 58]

GRANT OF MALTA TO THE KNIGHTS OF S. JOHN BY THE EMPEROR CHARLES V
[See p. 46.]

175



[facing P. 64]

9: Luke G-5 (ca. 1920-ca. 1960) 1960
EZ6 Malta EZ6

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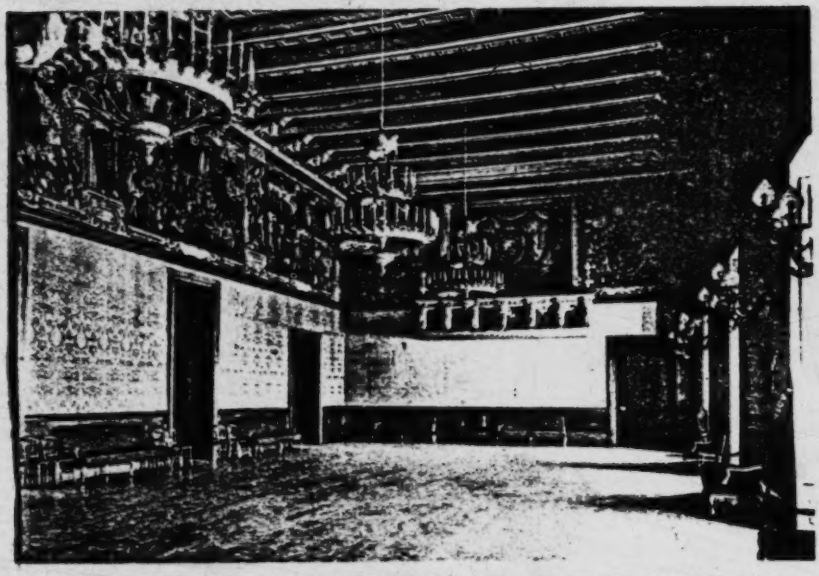


HALL OF S. MICHAEL AND S. GEORGE, SHOWING FRESCOES OF THE GREAT SIEGE AND MUSICIANS' GALLERY FROM THE GREAT CARRACK OF RHODES

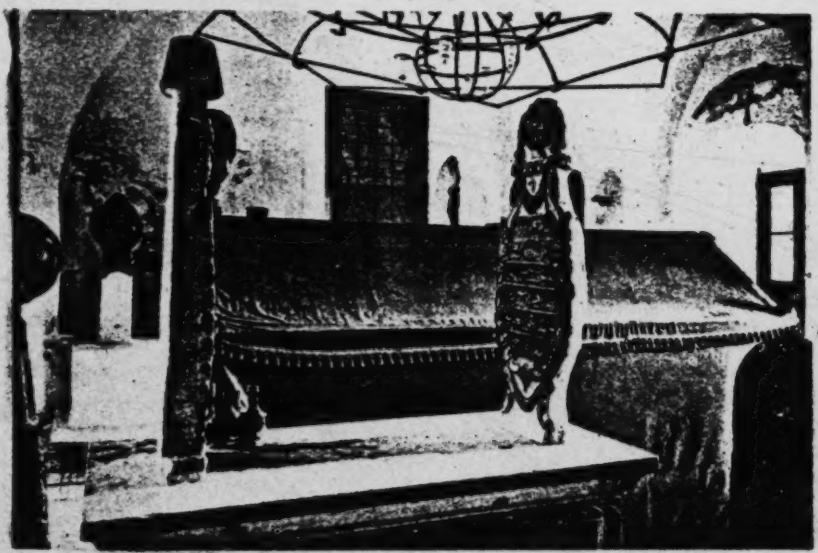
[*See pp.* 48–49, 52 *and* 181.]

80

TOMB OF DRAGUT IN TRIPOLI (BARBARY)

[*See p.* 53.]

600



[facing P. 80]

9: Luke G-5 (ca. 1920-ca. 1960) 1960
EZ6 Malta EZ6

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493

VALETTA: AUBERGE DE CASTILE

[See p. 60.]

MAIN ROOM OF THE AUBERGE DE PROVENCE (NOW THE MALTA NATIONAL MUSEUM) WHEN USED AS THE COFFEE-ROOM OF THE UNION CLUB

[See pp. 60 and 63.]

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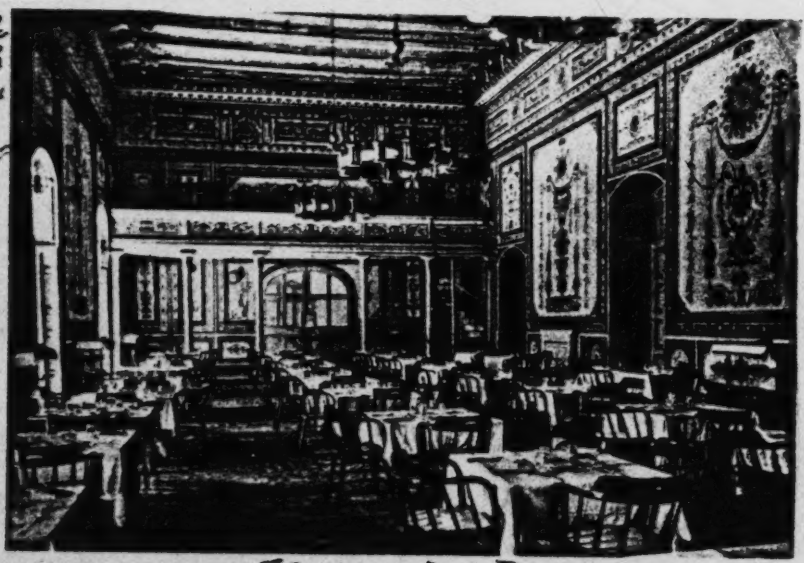

[facing P. 81]

9: Luke G-5 (ca. 1920-ca. 1960) 1960
EZ6 Malta EZ6

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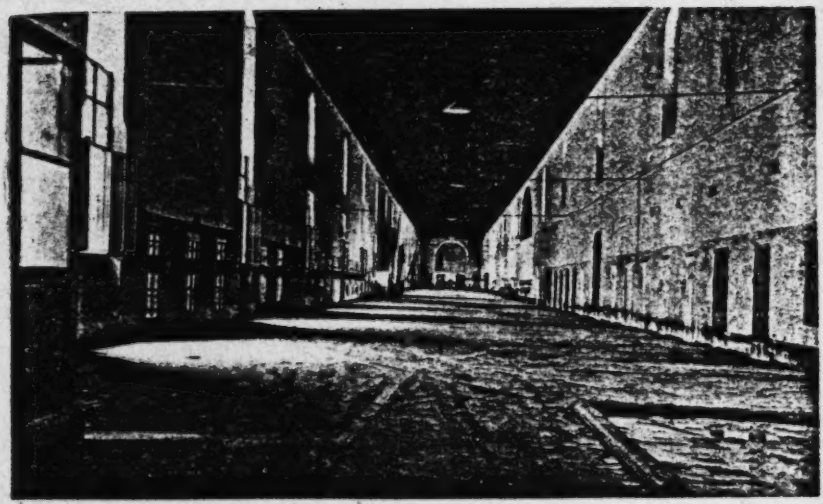
743



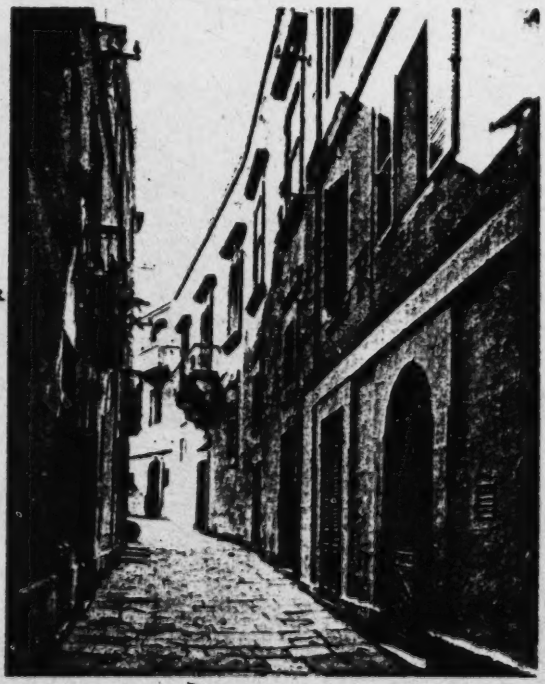
SACRED INFIRMARY: PART OF LONG WARD AFTER REMOVAL OF PARTITION WALL

[*See pp. 66 and 141.*]

363
342

AUBERGE OF ENGLAND AND HOUSE OF SIR OLIVER STARKEY, VITTORIOSA (BIRGU)

[*See pp. 69 and 140.*]



[facing P. 96]

9: Luke G-5 (ca. 1920-ca. 1960) 1960
EZ6 Malta EZ6

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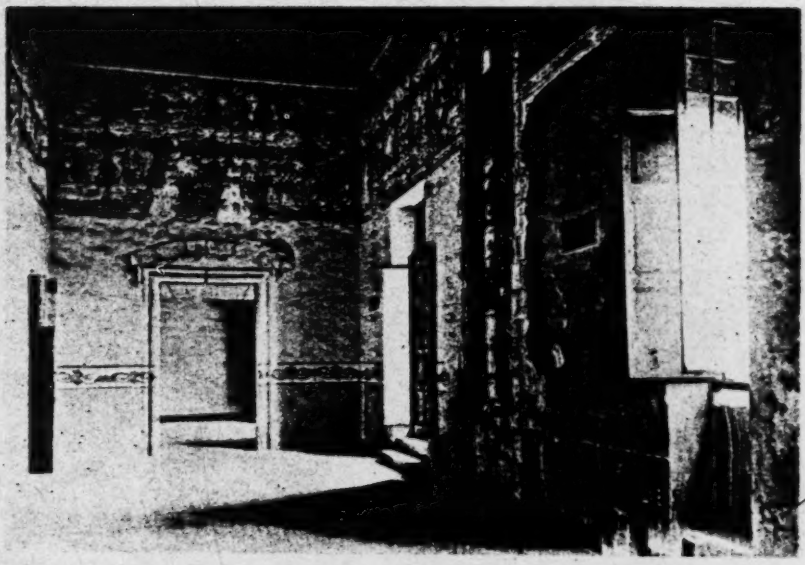
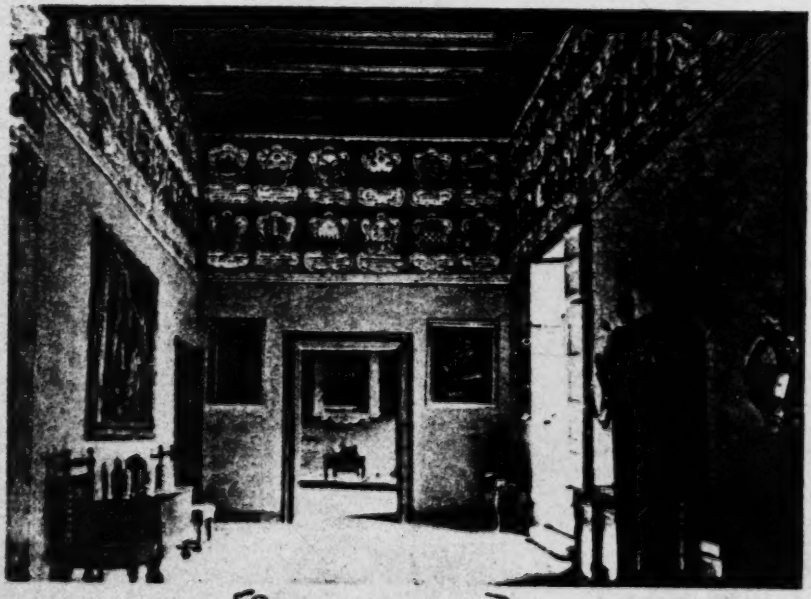
353



A ROOM IN THE INQUISITOR'S PALACE, VITTORIOSA, BEFORE AND AFTER RESTORATION

[*See pp.* 99 *and* 140.]



[facing P. 105]

9: Luke G-5 (ca. 1920-ca. 1960) 1960
EZ6 Malta EZ6

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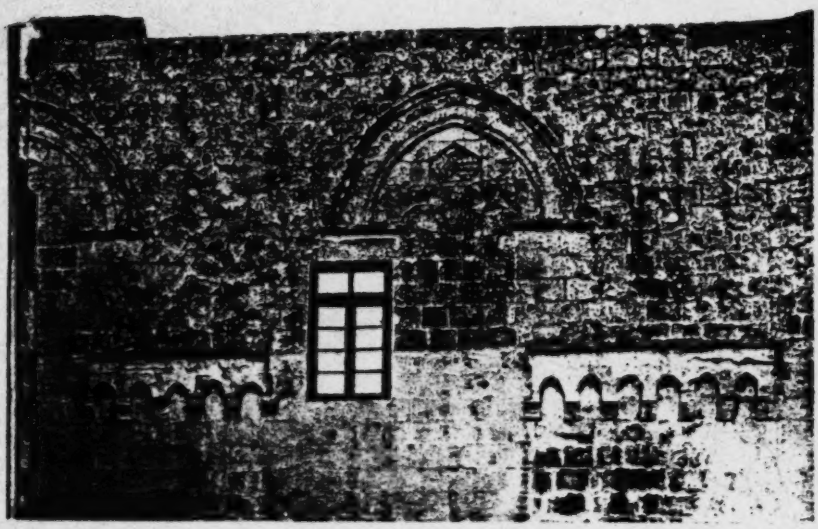
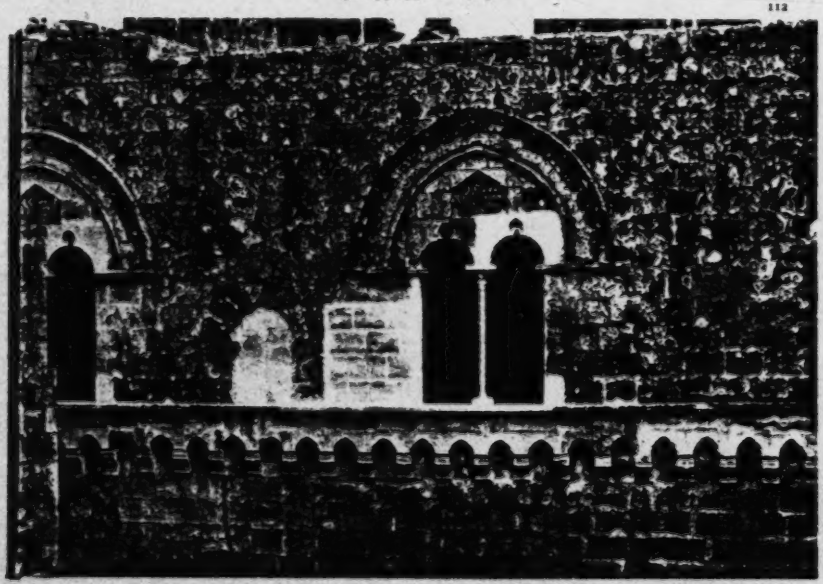
333



WALL OF GATTO-MURINA PALACE, MDINA, BEFORE AND AFTER RESTORATION

Observe the lamprey (*murina*) on arcade and arch.

[*See pp.* 93 *and* 141.]



[facing p. 112]

9: Luke G-5 (ca. 1920-ca. 1960) 1960
EZ6 Malta EZ6

• 344
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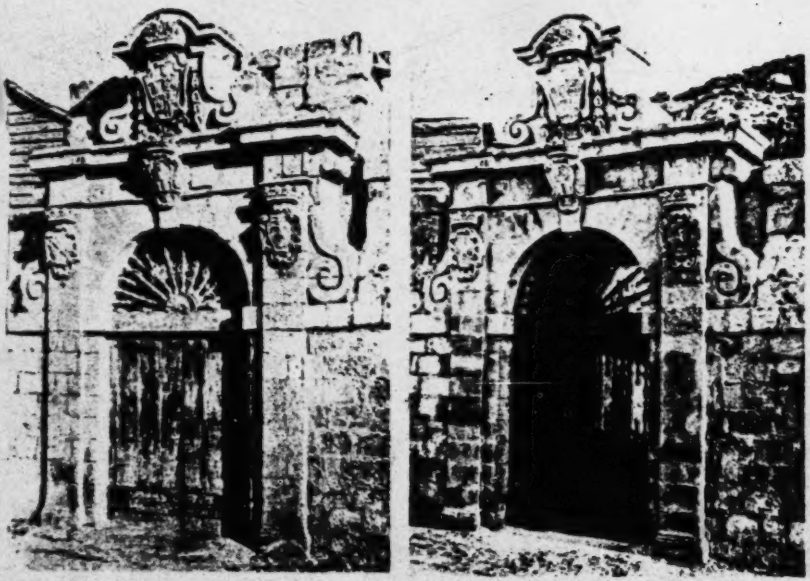
BALCONY OF THE RESTORED BONDI PALACE, GOZO, FROM THE ENTRANCE INTO THE CITADEL
[See pp. 141–142 and 222.]

341
333



A MONTE DI REDENZIONE GATEWAY NEAR KALAMISTRA, BEFORE AND AFTER RECONDITIONING
[See p. 141.]

[facing P. 128]

9: Luke G-5 (ca. 1920-ca. 1960) 1960
EZ6 Malta EZ6

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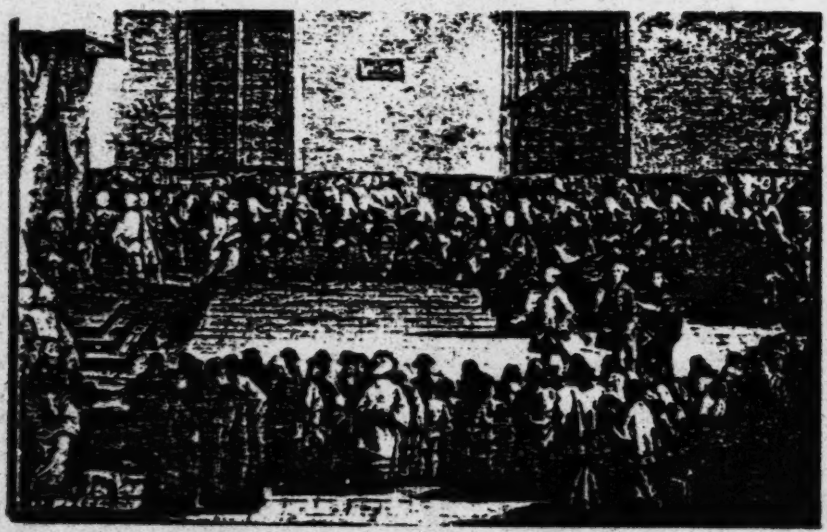
532
353

THE PALACE, VALETTA: A CORNER OF THE TAPESTRY CHAMBER (FORMERLY THE COUNCIL CHAMBER)

[*See pp.* 181 *and* 184–186.]

532



DEPUTATION OF THE PATRICIATE OF UDINE ARGUING BEFORE G.M. PINTO AND HIS CHAPTER-GENERAL IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE PALACE, VALETTA

By Giambattista Tiepolo.

[*See pp.* 181–182.]

[facing p. 144]

9: Luke G-5 (ca. 1920-ca. 1960) 1960
EZ6 Malta EZ6

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CARDINAL FREDERICK, LANDGRAVE OF HESSE, GENERAL OF THE GALLEYS
In the Palace, Valetta. Dated 1644.
[See p. 183.]

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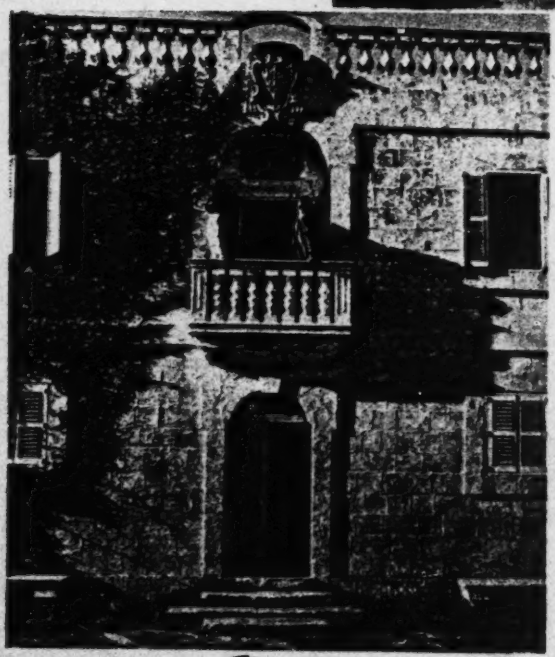

ENTRANCE TO THE INQUISITOR'S SUMMER PALACE
[See pp. 100-101.]

[facing P. 145]
[pp. 145-160 Not processed]

9: Luke G-5 (ca. 1920-ca. 1960) 1960
EZ6 Malta EZ6

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BUST OF G.M. CARDINAL DE VERDALLE
[See p. 190.]

VERDALA CASTLE
[See pp. 187–191.]

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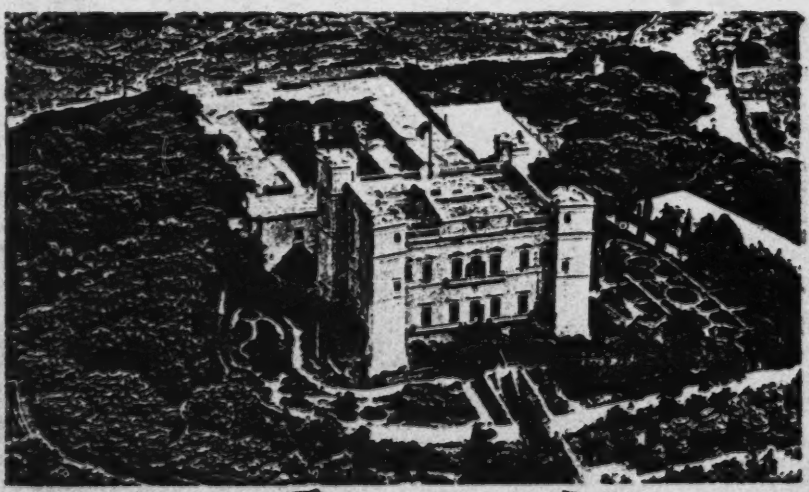

[facing P. 160]

9: Luke G-5 (ca. 1920-ca. 1960) 1960
EZ6 Malta EZ6

●34/
346

QUEEN SQUARE AND THE ROYAL LIBRARY, VALETTA
[See pp. 199–200.]

796
←

36
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→

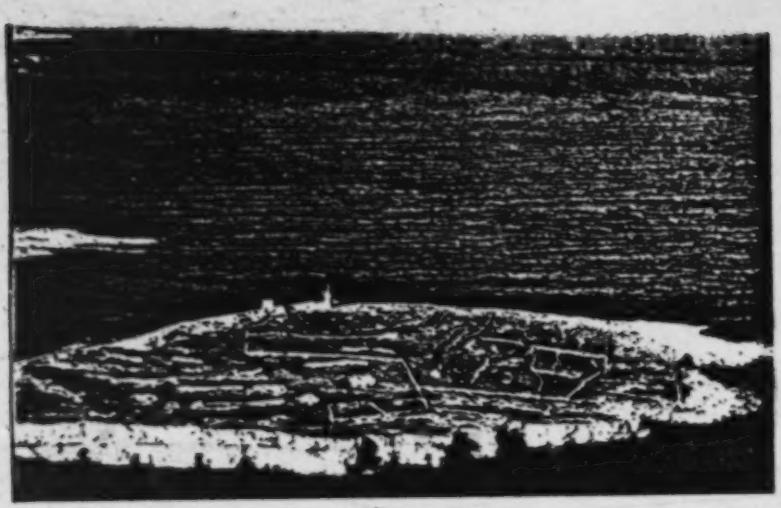
A PROCESSION EMERGING FROM S. JOHN'S

STREET IN SIĠĠIEWI
Note the "fat" mouldings.
[See p 67.]

[facing P. 192]

9: Luke G-5 (ca. 1920-ca. 1960) 1960
EZ6 Malta EZ6

133



S. PAUL'S ISLAND
[See pp. 21, 87 and 213.]

SELMUN PALACE
[See p. 213.]

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●344

[facing P. 208]

9: Luke G-5 (ca. 1920-ca. 1960) 1960
EZ6 Malta EZ6

the Monte di Redenzione, a foundation established more than three hundred years ago by one Father Rafael, a Maltese Capuchin.

Preaching one day in the year 1607 in S. John's Conventual Church, this good friar called upon his hearers to inaugurate a fund for the redemption of the Christian captives of the Barbary States, whose sufferings he depicted in terms of such realism that the Grand Master, Alof de Wignacourt, was able to set up the Monte di Redenzione with the offerings of the congregation and of members of the Order. Later, other charitable persons added or made bequests to the fund, which at first paid a ransom of 70 scudi for each Maltese slave and 150 scudi for a Knight of the Order. Subsequently these rates were raised to 200 and 500 scudi respectively; but, as the wars between the Order and the Barbary States ceased and the latter discontinued their raids on the island, the original object of the trust came to be fulfilled. So its properties were combined with those of the Monte di Pietà and administered by the Order, and thus continue to be administered to the present day by the Malta Government.

The most important property of the Monte di Redenzione is Selmun Castle, which stands on a high eminence overlooking S. Paul's Island and S. Paul's Bay. It is a clumsy replica of Verdala but is none the less impressive with its four towers and general air of a mediæval fortified stronghold. A balcony that completely encircles the castle, towers and all, is a pleasing feature of a building which might otherwise seem heavy and lacking in the gracefulness which Verdala, vast as it is, possesses in so marked a degree. Another attractive little property of the Redenzione is a handsome armorial ornamented gateway of the reign of Grand Master Pinto, standing below Selmun near the junction of the main road between S. Paul's Bay and Mellieha and the track to Kalamistra.

In his wanderings, especially in the country districts, the

9: Luke G-5 (ca. 1920-ca. 1960) 1960
EZ6 Malta EZ6
Gozo

712 175 648

Among the more accessible survivals of the Order is the large and impressive Fort Chambray, which commands the island's principal port of Mġarr. This stronghold was built, as we have already seen, by Jacques de Chambray, one of the last of the great Admirals of the Order, when he was Governor[1] of Gozo in the middle of the eighteenth century so that the island should no longer be at the mercy of every raiding enemy. Not that Fort Chambray had ever to endure a siege at the hands of the Barbary pirates. Its value in that direction was mainly a prophylactic one. But it did serve a military purpose during the death-pangs of the Order in 1798, when the Gozitans under their Governor and three of the Knights shut themselves up within its walls, determined to hold out as long as they could against the surprised French, who had not expected any resistance.

344 341

Then there is the Banca Giuratale, a graceful, semicircular Baroque structure which Grand Master Manoel de Vilhena erected at the end of the main square of Victoria as the offices of the Jurats of Gozo. Another was until 1943—alas, that the past tense has to be used here—the charming manor outside Xewkija known as the Torri Gourgion. Although it had fallen somewhat from its high estate and had been reduced to the status of a farmhouse, this unspoiled piece of seventeenth-century rural architecture, embellished by a charming well, yet retained externally all the dignity of that lordly epoch. Its stone drop-boxes alternating with elaborate stone escutcheons, its tall staircase tower topped by a conspicuous dome, its suggestion of the fortified country-house —all these features made it the only structure of its kind in the Maltese Islands.

341 342

342 648

It is indeed lamentable that it should have had to be razed to the ground in 1943, not by enemy action but to make room for a temporary American aerodrome required in

[643]

[1] The Governor of Gozo, known in Maltese as the Hakem, lived in the house in the Citadel which, as has been said, is now the Law Court and Public Registry.